



Earthquakes supporters, who call themselves the “1906 Ultras,” sit in the section that has seats behind the goal. They attend every home game and even travel to some away games. The San Jose Earthquakes finished the 2012 season with a record of 19-6-9 before losing to the Los Angeles Galaxy in the first round of the playoffs. **Photo courtesy of Mauricio Segura**

SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES

Communities and businesses lifted by soccer team’s success

By David Wong
@davidleedwong

The San Jose Earthquakes’ major league soccer season is over, but the community and businesses that supported the team are just now reflecting on the organization’s success on the pitch and what it means for them.

The main method of transportation for Earthquakes supporters to attend matches is to take Caltrain to Santa Clara Station, which is a short walk away from the Buck Shaw Stadium, the current home venue for the Earthquakes, on the campus of Santa Clara University.

For attendees of home games, Caltrain promoted its services to weekend fixtures, stated Christine Dunn, the public information officer for Caltrain, in an email.

“Caltrain has enjoyed tremendous success providing service to the Giants games in San Francisco and we look forward to providing more service to sports fans in the South Bay (when the new Earthquakes stadium opens),” Dunn stated.

Sam Liccardo, San Jose councilmember for District 3, said the construction of the Earthquakes’ new stadium across from Norman Mineta Airport will drive interest among youth and adults to be active outdoors because of the construction of a recreational playing field complex near the stadium.

“The construction comes at a time when we are emerging from the worst recession in three quarters of a century and we always welcome a \$60,000,000 dollar investment inside our borders, particularly when the dollars come from a source other than the public because it is funded entirely by Earth-

quakes owner Lew Wolff and his business partners,” Liccardo said.

The location of the stadium is important strategically for the city because the stadium will be an iconic city landmark to residents as they enter the city and may attract retail and hotel development at the site, according to Liccardo.

The kind of enthusiasm that was shown by the 6,256 people who were at the stadium’s groundbreaking can bring a community together and can yield a sense of identity for San Jose, Liccardo said.

“This past season is an ample implication of why pro sports can have a very compelling impact on a community, while we’re seeing Earthquakes gear and T-shirts and balls

sell out at local stores, you’re seeing a real boom in interest among kids and adults in this sport because of all this success the Quakes have had on the field,” Liccardo said.

Dan Margarit, a representative for the 1906 Ultras, the supporters’ group for the Earthquakes, said the atmosphere at Buck Shaw Stadium was the best since the club was re-established in 2008.

“The Ultras are loud and doing our thing even when the team is not doing so well,” Margarit said. “However, the rest of the fans tend to participate more when the team is winning.”

The Ultras separate themselves from the others at the stadium by having their own tifo (choreographed sequences) and singing.

Every Major League Soccer (MLS) team has a supporters group but the 1906 Ultras are the only ultra group, according to Margarit.

Ultras are the fanatical supporters for

soccer clubs and are ubiquitous across Europe — particularly Italy — where they are notable for their aggressive displays towards the opposition and extreme political views.

“We take passion to the extreme, and we have our own style. We don’t copy others and we don’t want to be associated with other supporters groups from MLS,” Margarit said. “Most of them are one of the reasons why foreigners don’t take our league seriously, even though the level of play is pretty good. The rest of the fans are not willing to make any type of noise that would help our team, let alone visual displays.”

According to Margarit, the Ultras’ role at home fixtures is to make and sustain noise along with producing visual displays.

The 1906 Ultras are neophytes compared to the supporters groups for European football clubs, according to Margarit.

“The Ultra culture originated there in the ‘60s,” he said. “I was born and raised there, and as a child, you already know what it takes to become an Ultra. If you are into soccer, becoming an Ultra is one of your goals as a kid.”

In San Jose, most kids aren’t knowledgeable about the Earthquakes, let alone soccer fan culture, according to Margarit.

“There’s plenty of things that we still need to work on to get to the level of the European Ultras, but we are moving in the right direction,” Margarit said.

David Wong is a Spartan Daily senior staff writer. Follow him on Twitter at @davidleedwong.

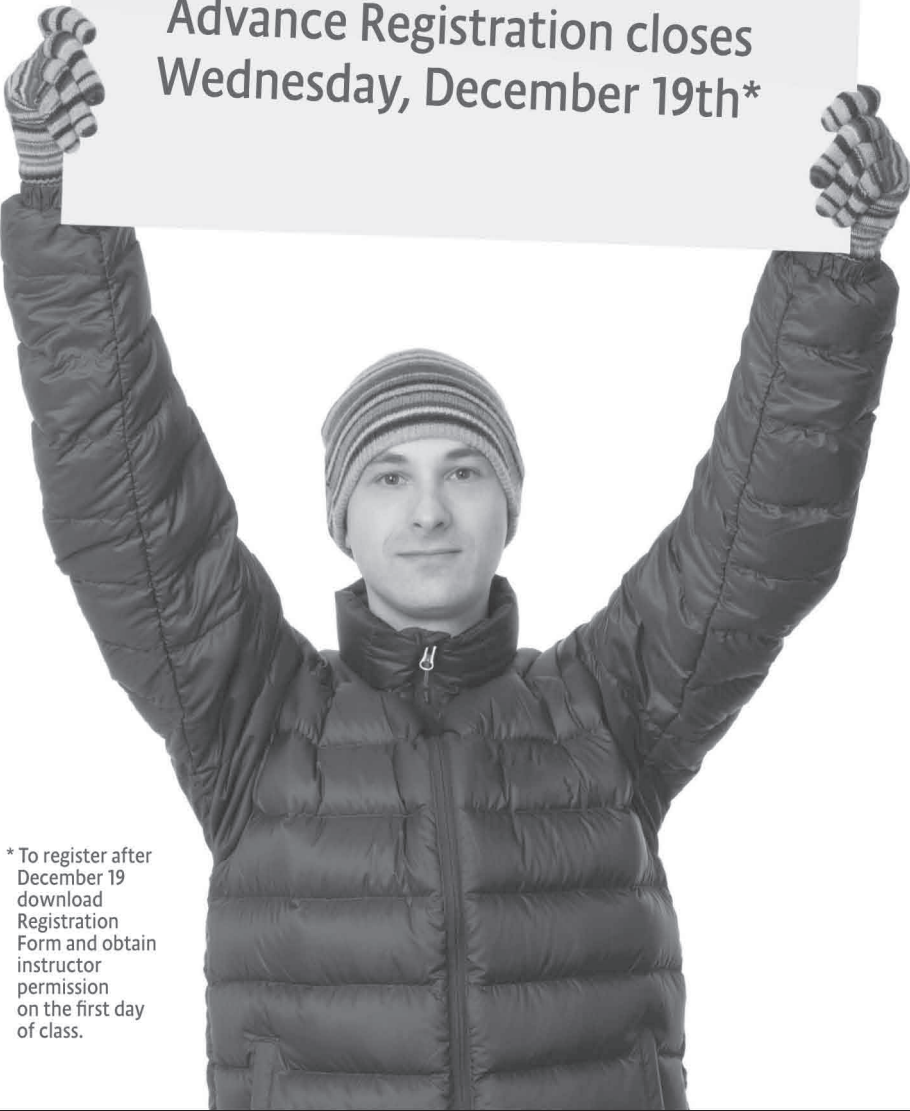
We take passion to the extreme... we don’t want to be associated with other supporters groups from MLS.

Dan Margarit
1906 Ultras representative

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NATIONAL



Col. Ricky Gibbs, 4th Brigade Combat Team, places a Purple Heart on the collar of Sgt. Jennifer Hunt, a civil affairs specialist assigned to Company A, for wounds suffered due to enemy contact during her deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. She is one of several servicewomen joining a lawsuit filed yesterday challenging the Pentagon’s policy excluding women from combat positions.
Photo by McClatchy Tribune

Military women challenge policy on women in combat

By Michael Doyle
McClatchy Tribune

WASHINGTON — Taliban fighters didn’t discriminate when they wounded then-Capt. Mary Jennings of the California Air National Guard. She was the enemy, so they shot at her as well as the men flying beside her.

Now a major, and known as Mary Jennings Hegar, the decorated helicopter pilot and other female service members are opening a new front in the challenge to the military’s long-standing exclusion of women from ground combat positions. In a federal lawsuit filed Tuesday, the women say eliminating the policy is long overdue.

“This policy is outdated, and it does not match the reality of modern war,” American Civil Liberties Union senior staff attorney Ariela Migdal said in a telephone news conference.

The lawsuit filed by the ACLU in U.S. District Court in San Francisco is the second this year challenging the military’s female ground-combat exclusion policy. Last May, a University of Virginia Law School team filed the first suit in federal court in Washington.

These lawsuits take similar approaches, calling the military policy a violation of constitutional guarantees of equal protection and a hindrance to promotion potential. Both also face similar challenges. In particular, courts often are loath to interfere with military practices.

“The ground combat assignment policy is founded on (the Defense Department’s) assessment, based on its military expertise, of what is necessary to preserve force readiness and military effectiveness,” Justice Department

attorneys wrote in response to the Washington lawsuit, adding that “this assessment is entitled to substantial deference.”

The military’s policy regarding women in combat has been a work in progress since 1948, when Congress first passed a law making women a permanent — though explicitly limited — part of the U.S. armed services. By 1994, after the first Persian Gulf War, the Pentagon narrowed the female exclusion to cover units below the brigade level whose primary mission is to engage in direct combat on the ground. A brigade is usually composed of 3,000 to 5,000 troops.

The vast majority of men I have served with in combat didn’t care if I was a woman. They cared only about whether I could do the job.

*Major Mary Jennings Hegar
California Air National Guard*

Last February, the Pentagon further refined the exclusion to allow women in certain occupations to serve in battalion-level units, which typically have 500 to 600 soldiers. Individual branches also are permitted to exclude women from their special operations forces, such as the Navy SEALs.

“The elimination of gender-restricted assignment

policies requires deliberate action,” the Pentagon’s February report to Congress cautioned. “There are serious practical barriers, which require time to resolve.”

In past cases, the Supreme Court has said sex discrimination is permitted only if it’s supported by an “exceedingly persuasive” justification that’s substantially related to “important governmental objectives.”

Combat, though, doesn’t always respect the bureaucratic or legal niceties.

More than 280,000 women have served in the military during the past decade, while the Iraq and Afghanistan wars have been fought. More than 130 have died and more than 800 have been wounded, according to the Congressional Research Service.

Hegar came under fire on July 29, 2009, while co-piloting a HH-60G Pave Hawk search-and-rescue helicopter near Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan. Assigned to the 129th Rescue Squadron, usually based at Moffett Field in the San Francisco Bay Area, Hegar was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor, as well as the Purple Heart, for her actions that day in rescuing three wounded U.S. soldiers.

“My story is not exceptional or uncommon,” Hegar said Tuesday. “The vast majority of men I have served with in combat didn’t care if I was a woman. They cared only about whether I could do the job.”

Even with the ground combat ban in place, Hegar noted that she ended up engaging the enemy from the ground for about 20 minutes after her helicopter crashed. Hegar, now 36, said if the policy were lifted she could apply for a ground combat position, which would help her career.

Game: New three-course program starts next semester

FROM PAGE 1

In addition to giving students a hands-on approach to game design, Pearce said students will also be learning how to utilize a game engine, a system made to provide a software network for game developers to use to make games for both video consoles and computers.

The curriculum of the third and final leg of the Learning and Games Initiative emphasizes the programming

software behind game design instead of the techniques and theory behind it and is exclusive to programming majors only, according to Pearce.

“(The third class is) a game development course, where you need to be a programmer,” he said.

This last class requires students to have prior knowledge and experience with programming software, Pearce said.

Despite the exclusivity of the final class, Pearce said

the ultimate dream for the program is to stimulate game design in all majors across campus.

“Our vision is (for) game certificates (are to be) interdisciplinary, so any major could have it along with whatever their major is,” he said. “We think that doing these games could be applicable to any field.”

Camille Nguyen is a Spartan Daily staff writer. Follow her on Twitter at @camillediem.

SJSU Crime Log 11/25 - 11/27

The following items are selected from the University Police Department daily crime log. Times shown are when the incidents were reported to police.

Sunday, Nov. 25

- **Student Union, 11:42 a.m.:** Police officers responded to a report of a robbery. The victim, a female SJSU student, was able to identify the suspect, a male non-student. The suspect was arrested for robbery, false imprisonment, possession of a weapon on a college campus, and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- **Spartan Stadium, 9:45 p.m.:** The San Jose Fire Department put out a dumpster fire.

Monday, Nov. 26

- **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library, 8 a.m.:** Library security took a report for vandalism.
- **Instructional Resources Center, 5:20 p.m.:** An SJSU faculty member contacted police and reported that his department-issued laptop was taken from his office.
- **King Library, 8:48 p.m.:** A male student was cited for activating a fire alarm pull station.
- **Simpkins Stadium Center, 10:10 p.m.:** A report was filed for a stolen backpack.

Tuesday, Nov. 27

- **Campus Village Building B, 3 a.m.:** A male student contacted police and reported that his wallet was stolen while he solicited female prostitutes. The student recanted the claim after his property was found.

Information compiled from SJSU police department



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POP CULTURE

Over-the-top cooking show ‘Epic Meal Time’ sizzles on the Web

By Dawn C. Chmielewski
McClatchy Tribune

The chef at Someone Cares Soup Kitchen is accustomed to preparing meals for hundreds of people using donated meat, vegetables and fruit.

But on a recent afternoon in Costa Mesa, Calif., the chefs of Internet cooking sensation “Epic Meal Time” were raising a skeptical eyebrow.

Among the “epic” meals added to the lunch menu: Fast Food Lasagna (whose main ingredient is 45 McDonald’s cheeseburgers), the Angry French Canadian (an adaptation of the Quebec dish poutine, on this day made with French fries, bacon and cheddar cheese and topped with brown gravy and maple syrup), and TurBacon-Epic, a super-size version of the Thanksgiving-themed stunt classic, in which a quail is stuffed inside a Cornish game hen, inside a chicken, inside a duck, inside a turkey – then slow-roasted inside a pig.

“We brought a whole bunch of our best-tasting recipes today to share with everyone here,” “Epic Meal Time” host Harley Morenstein said. “So, I hope you enjoy it. If not, I apologize.”

This isn’t Ina Garten’s “Barefoot Contessa.” Morenstein and his cast of supporting characters aren’t seeking the perfect bechamel sauce. They’re cooking big piles of meat, making such comically over-the-top meals as the barbecue Colosseum construct-

ed out of ribs, cheeseburgers, hot dogs and macaroni and cheese, or a Christmas tree decorated with garland strands of chicken nuggets and 2,000 strips of bacon.

Online audiences – especially young men – eat it up. The weekly cooking show has attracted some 2.9 million subscribers on YouTube, and nearly a half-billion video views. The recent episodes “Chinese Pizza,” “The Unbalanced Breakfast” and “Country Fried Meal Time” have each had more viewers than for a recent episode of TLC’s popular “Cake Boss” or The Travel Channel’s “Man Vs. Food.” According to ratings firm Nielsen, new episodes of “Cake Boss” and “Man Vs. Food” attracted 1.5 million and 1.1 million viewers, respectively, in their initial TV outings.

Eager to reach the show’s young male demographic, Frito-Lay North America Inc.’s Doritos brand, retailer GameStop Corp., subscription service Netflix Inc. and the publisher of the “Gears of War” video game have advertised on the channel.

Their Web show is not without its detractors. The advocacy group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals featured a parody video called “Vegan Meal Time” on its blog and criticized the show’s creators for “the nastiness of their gluttonous creations.”

“‘Epic Meal Time’ seems to be a proud sponsor of the obesity epidemic,” Jane Dollinger, a spokeswoman for PETA, said in a statement.



Epic Meal Time’s host Harley Morenstein (center) films his Thanksgiving show while preparing food at the Someone Cares Soup Kitchen in Costa Mesa, California on Nov. 13. His friends Jimmy Wong (left) and Hannah Hart (right) help him out in the kitchen. Photo by Francine Orr / MCT

But “Epic Meal Time” has won some surprising fans who appreciate its satire of the over-serious TV cooking show. Healthful-eating advocate Jamie Oliver, who hosted ABC’s “Food Revolution,” even wrote the forward for the show’s forthcoming cookbook.

Morenstein, who holds a degree in elementary education from McGill University in Montreal, was developing a children’s show when he uploaded a video of him and a buddy cooking a pizza topped with melted cheese and McDonald’s hamburgers. For fun, he tacked on nutritional information (6,000 calories and over 1,000 grams of fat) and invented

the “Epic Meal Time” name to capture the gastronomical excess.

The October 2010 video was a modest YouTube sensation – attracting 150,000 views and coverage in the local newspaper. The next video, in which Morenstein created the Angry French Canadian sandwich, grabbed an even bigger online viewership and earned the 6-foot-6 host the nickname “Jackass in the kitchen.”

In a bid for American viewers, Morenstein planned a Thanksgiving feast in which he created an exaggerated version of the legendary tur-duck-en. He dubbed his creation the TurBaconEpic.

“It got 2 million views in

a week,” Morenstein said. “I was like, ‘OK, this is what we do for my life now.’ “

In 2010, “Epic Meal Time” was accepted into YouTube’s partner program, allowing it to share in online advertising revenue. To prepare, he wrote 200 to 300 cooking ideas for such things as a variation on spaghetti and meatballs, in which the pasta is stuffed into a meatball the size of a basketball.

Now, Morenstein’s production company is profitable and supports a 10-person full-time team. It collects revenue from advertisers attracted by its more than 30 million monthly video views, garners fees from marketers who are coming to

the show’s creator to develop branded content to promote their products and services, and operates a lucrative merchandising operation that sells everything from hats, hoodies and T-shirts to, soon, cooking utensils, said Dan Weinstein, chief content officer at Collective Digital Studio, Morenstein’s management company and distribution partner.

“They’re starting to get notoriety in the zeitgeist,” said Alex Angeledes, chief revenue officer of Collective Digital Studio. “That is leading to a lot of brands saying, ‘We’re trying to figure out how to work with these guys and how we can leverage their audience.’ ”

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ACROSS

- 1 Titanic’s downfall
5 It eliminates a suspect
10 From the same tree?
14 Say it’s so
15 Ascended, as from the grave
16 Tibetan holy man
17 Cement ingredient
18 Characteristic carriers
19 Cable TV sports award
20 It’ll put you down for the count
23 Follow, as a suggestion
24 Respectful title in India
25 Bumped into
28 Bridal bio word
29 Many millennia
33 Lapse, as a license
35 Concerning this, to lawyers
37 Primal impulse
38 What a cliché is, essentially
43 General vicinity
44 Grad student’s project
45 “The Mick” of baseball
48 Prepares, as a dinner table
49 “Check THAT out!”
52 Pull the plug on
53 Swiss high-rise?
55 Turkish bath
57 Crucial car part
62 Contented cat sound
64 Braid of hair
65 Like some pickings
66 On the ocean
67 Medicinal herb
68 West Wing underling
69 ___-in-waiting (princess’ attendant)
70 Garden border tool
71 Calendar unit

DOWN

- 1 ___ States (group that includes Bulgaria)
2 Demonstrate clearly
3 Device with a mute button
4 ___-Roman wrestling
5 Bearer of the Golden Fleece
6 In ___ of (replacing)
7 “Winning ___ everything!”
8 Traffic toots
9 Take out a policy on Guinness or Waugh
11 Indo-Aryan language
12 Little hand-ful

Previous Puzzle Answer

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- 13 Con’s vote
21 Delivered a low blow?
22 Give the thumbs-down to
26 Cogito, ___ sum
27 College freshman, usually
30 Tramcar lode
31 Customer service call
32 Second-year coeds
34 “___ in Boots”
35 Winter budget item
36 For the taking
38 Unlikely to bite
39 Home to the Zagros Mountains
40 Delivered formally, as a jury
41 Attendance fig., often
42 Wuss
46 ___-di-dah
47 Pass by, as time
49 Tell bigger whoppers?
50 Big name in flatware
51 Carpenter’s tool
54 Whimpered
56 Measure metal
58 Revealing photo?
59 Competed on “American Idol”
60 Pitchfork prong
61 Twinkler in the sky
62 Chum
63 July 4th honoree

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

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			9				3	7								
			7	8	9	4										

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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Myhre's Mind

by Julie Myhre

A tragic lesson in the need to use seat belts

Safety is one of my main concerns when I am driving, especially since I commute two hours-a-day to school and work from home.

Seat belts are an important part of this safety — it can literally save your life.

One of my high school classmates was killed on Friday in a car crash.

She wasn't wearing a seat belt and was thrown from her family's car when it crashed into a California Highway Patrol vehicle and began rolling on U.S. Route 101. She died instantly.

It was heartbreaking to hear that someone so young had lost her life. As I remembered the brief encounters we shared in high school, I began to get angry.

Why couldn't she be wearing a seat belt?, I thought.

The other passengers in the vehicle were wearing seat belts and, even though some are in critical condition,

It was heartbreaking to hear that someone so young had lost her life.

they are still alive.

I wasn't angry at my classmate herself, I was angry at the circumstance.

I don't blame her for not wearing a seat belt.

I want to take what I learned from her as a life lesson to always wear my seat belt and to share the importance of seat belt safety with friends, family and even strangers who read my column.

California currently enforces a Mandatory Seat Belt Act, which is a section under the Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

The law states "A person shall not operate a motor vehicle on a highway unless that person and all passengers 16 years of age or over are properly restrained by a safety belt."

There are separate California laws for children and car seats.

I have been in vehicles with friends



Julie Myhre's column appears every Wednesday.

who weren't wearing a seat belt and I'm sure you have too. It just so happens that they were lucky not to be involved in an accident while they were unbuckled.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, California practiced secondary seat belt enforcement in 1992 and primary enforcement in 1993.

Primary enforcement seat belt laws allow police officers to issue a citation solely based on the fact that the person isn't wearing their seat belt. Secondary enforcement seat belt laws "allow police to issue a safety belt citation if the vehicle has been stopped for another reason," according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Only 17 states have primary enforcement seat belt laws, while 32 states have secondary laws and New Hampshire only has seat belt laws for people under the age of 18, according to the Governors Highway Safety Association.

That's ridiculous — I think seat belt laws around the country should be primary enforcement.

According to the CDC, in 2009 more than 33,000 people died in motor vehicle accidents and of those killed more than half of them were not wearing their seat belt correctly or at all at the time of impact.

How many of those people could still be alive today if they have worn a seat belt?

Depending on the crash, I think about half of them might have survived the crash if they were wearing their seat belt.

I was always taught to wear a seat belt. My parents wouldn't move or even start the car until it was buckled.

I now continue the practice of making my friends, family and other passengers buckle up before I turn the vehicle on, and I will be especially strict after losing my high school classmate.

Seat belts are an important part of vehicle safety and I ask that you practice this safety as well because you could be involved in a car crash.

Not wearing a seat belt isn't worth risking your life.

Julie Myhre is a Spartan Daily copy editor. Follow her on Twitter @JulieVMy.

Marrying young can be healthy

It never dawned on me that being engaged at 22 was seen by many people as unusual until I transferred to SJSU.

I know many people in college may shudder at the very word "marriage," but not me. I actually can't wait to get married and I am counting down the days until I get to say, "I do."

I got engaged last year on my 21st birthday to my boyfriend of three and a half years and we are getting married next summer after I graduate from college.

When I came to SJSU and people found out I was engaged, I received comments such as, "Oh really?" or "Wow." Of course they followed it with a congratulations, but their initial reaction seemed to be a bit of shock.

After people's reactions and conversations about me being engaged at "such a young age," I decided to do some research on the topic and was actually shocked to find out how many other people felt that getting engaged and married in your early 20s was too young.

There are many articles I found that stated that getting married too young was a bad idea.

One article in particular that stood out to me was from huffingtonpost.com by Jennifer Nagy titled "Why I Believe Marriage Shouldn't Be Allowed Before Age 25."

She said that she got married when she was 24 and got divorced five years later, the reason being she was too "naïve and impressionable" when they first met when she was 19 years old.

Nagy said people under the age of 25 are still discovering themselves and they will change their mind about what or who they love by the age of 29.

She even said she would want to change the law so people under the age of 25 could not get married.

According to the National Vital Statistics System of the Centers for Disease Control's National Center for Health Statistics, the rate per 1,000 total population of 308,745,538 people who got mar-



Follow Celeste Lodge on Twitter at @celestelodge.

ried in 2010 was 6.8, and the rate for people who got divorced among a population of 244,122,529 people was 3.6 per 1,000 total population.

With such a high rate of divorce in the United States, I can understand Nagy's and other people's hesitation and warnings about getting married at a young age, but I believe it's about the relationship and commitment two people share together and not their age.

I live by examples of long marriages that have started at a young age that I have been surrounded with in my life.

I'm blessed and lucky to have found the person I want to spend the rest of my life with so young.

My parents got married when they were both 20, and although my father passed away at the age of 43, my parents were still happily together and making it work until the day he died.

I know they had their difficult times, but I saw them push through it and fight for each other to make it work.

I also know you're not always promised tomorrow with the person you love, and if I am able to spend more time bonded as husband and wife with that person, then I am going to take that opportunity.

My grandparents got married at the ages of 19 and 21 and are still going strong today. My other grandparents got married in their early 20s and although my grandfather passed away three years ago, they were still going strong until the day he died.

My sister got married at the age of 23 and my brother got married at the age of 21. Both are still happily married.

A strong marriage depends on the relationship two people have, how well they can work through things, how well they can communicate, how well their values sync together and how well they trust one another.

I've been with my significant other for more than four and a half years now and I know I love him and that I want to spend the rest of my life with him. I can't find any reason why I wouldn't want to marry him at a young age.

I'm blessed and lucky to have found the person that I want to spend the rest of my life with so young.

Being in college can be a challenge while being engaged because much of the college scene is to be single and party.

Some people may say I'm missing out on the college life.

I admit that sometimes it's hard because a lot of my friends are single or aren't in as serious as a relationship as I am. They often want to go out and party which can cause some problems when you're engaged, so there are sacrifices that I have to make, but they are definitely worth it.

I feel more focused now in school since I am engaged because I have another goal to work toward after graduating; it has made me more determined to finish school.

Some of the other arguments I've come across are, "What's the rush?" or "You should focus on your career after college."

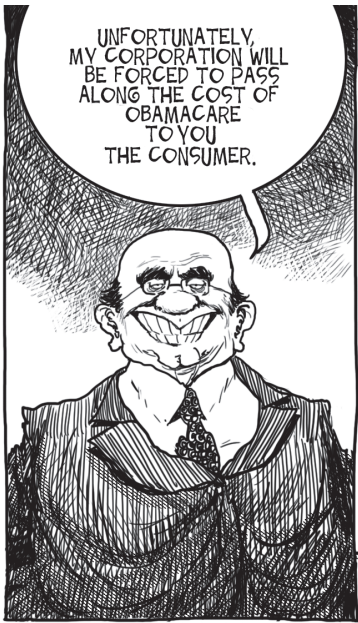
I've been able to get through college just fine while being engaged and I will be just fine focusing on my career as well after college while being married.

I understand people may say I'm being naïve, but I understand that marriage takes a lot of work and I'm willing to put in that work with someone that I truly want to be with for the rest of my life.

I know I'm ready to marry him and I'm not going to let other people influence my relationship.

If getting married at a young age truly makes you happy and you feel you are ready for the commitment, then go for it. Just make sure you are really ready to put in the work it requires.

Celeste Lodge is a Spartan Daily staff writer. Follow her on Twitter @CelesteLodge.



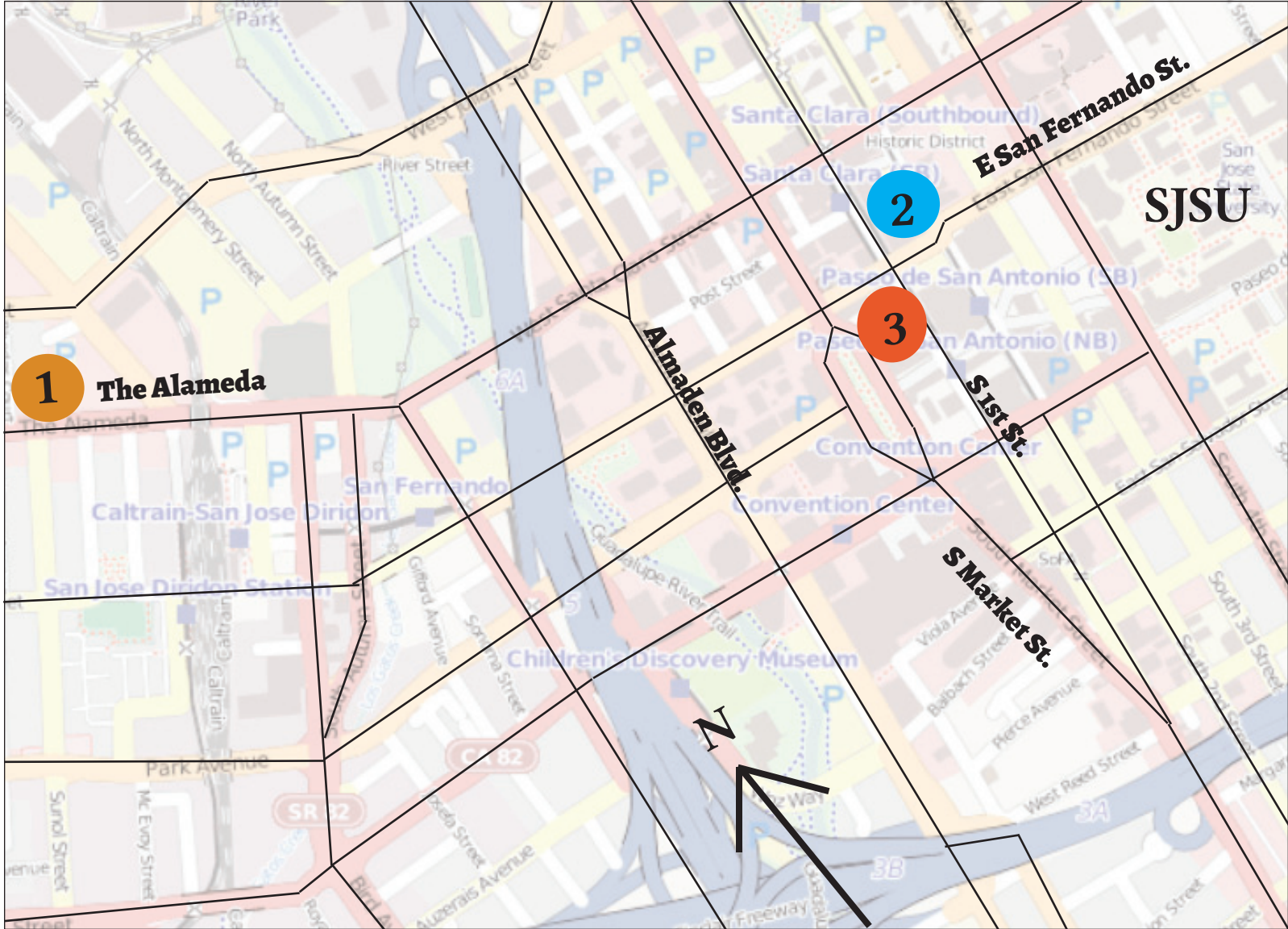
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RESTAURANT GUIDE

San Jose Gastronomy: Places to get great eats in downtown

By Natalie Cabral
@SD_NCabral



Infographic by Julie Tran / Spartan Daily

Price Range

\$ - \$1 to \$9 for a meal

\$\$ - \$10 to \$18 for a meal

Check out future issues of the Spartan Daily for more restaurant guides featuring more of downtown, Willow Glen and Campbell!

1 Freebirds



Freebirds' Super Monster burrito has Spanish rice, refried beans, carnitas, pico de gallo, sour cream and mixed cheeses. Photo by Natalie Cabral / Spartan Daily

Lets face it, La Victoria Taqueria and Iguanas can get a bit boring after having your 100th burrito from them. Luckily, Southern California brought Isla Vista's Freebirds World Burrito to 1205 The Alameda in Downtown San Jose in October to offer us a new twist on our Mexican favorite.

This novelty chain provides quick burritos at a reasonable price without sacrificing great taste.

Now, if you know anything about burritos, you'll know that a good one should never be dry.

Fortunately, when ordering at Freebirds, you have the pleasure of ordering your burrito to your liking as it is made right in front of you.

Through a clear counter glass you can ensure your burrito has all the dressings.

Spanish rice, refried beans, carnitas, pico de gallo, sour cream and mixed cheeses made up my super monster burrito. The name isn't a joke either.

For \$13.99 I received a massive, larger-than-a-newborn-sized burrito.

Thankfully, the burrito didn't disappoint. Its gooey, messy inside was a pleasant surprise.

You can't beat the hippie vibes within the restaurant either. If you're looking for a chill, quick place to grab a burrito, Freebirds is a great place to get your burrito fix.

Freebirds is open Sunday through Thursday from 10:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. and Friday through Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Price:

\$ - \$\$

2 Original Gravity



Original Gravity's Bavarian sausage is made up of pork, cheddar and garlic topped with grilled onions. Photo by Natalie Cabral / Spartan Daily

We all know Original Gravity Public House is notorious to our 21-and-over crowd for its immense variety of beers, located at 66 S. 1st St.

However, I plead to you to stop and taste the wieners.

Their sausage selection is admirable. I myself opted for the \$6.50 Bavarian, which is a pork, cheddar and garlic sausage and was immediately satisfied upon the first bite.

The restaurant offers toppings such as sauerkraut, grilled onions, candied jalapenos and bell peppers.

It's a simple combo, but worth the money. Their classic sausages such as the lemon chicken, Louisiana hot and pepperjack run for \$5.75 while their gourmet sausages such as the sweet potato, hot Italian, and Hawaiian cost \$6.50.

This bar-styled spot isn't huge, but among the chalkboard specials and wooden tables you'll find that any extra space isn't necessary.

Another thing to note about Original Gravity is its special event nights.

On Nov. 13, for example, they held the event called "Lagunitas Brown Shugga Tapping" which welcomed back the return of Lagunitas beer for customers.

This place is a perfect option for a weekend evening when you desire nothing more than a brew and a simple, unfussy meal.

Original Gravity is open Sunday through Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. and Thursday through Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to midnight.

Price:

\$

3 Crema



Crema Coffee Roasting Company's vanilla latte contains steamed milk and vanilla. Photo by Natalie Cabral / Spartan Daily

Right at 50 W. San Fernando St. sits a hip little cafe called Crema Coffee Roasting Company.

If the commercialism at Starbucks is driving you wild, drop by Crema for a small vanilla latte for \$3.45.

Granted, prices aren't too far off from nearby coffee shops but the quiet, studious atmosphere is reminiscent of a genuine coffee shop.

I'm referencing the years before Starbucks graced every corner on every street by the way.

Crema's small, but cozy, shop consists of wide windows all around that allow just the right amount of natural light for the reading of chapters upon chapters in textbooks.

Their coffee and pastry selection includes all the typical favorites like caramel mochas and various pies. Specialty sandwiches run for \$6.50 at its highest rate but includes tasty options such as the chicken pesto, the Philly cheese and even a Vietnamese grilled pork sandwich.

If you're worn out on coffee, try out the 24 ounce Strawberry Snookie for \$4.65. Inspired by "Jersey Shore," it's a concoction equivalent to a strawberry smoothie. It'll have you fist-pumping with refreshment.

Their service is quick as well, so you won't struggle too much with long lines like you might at more popular coffee shops around SJSU.

It's a fresh take on the quaint coffee shop experience and great for final exams season.

Crema is open Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. and Friday through Sunday from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Price:

\$